

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01879 151103Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01  
SP-02 XMB-02 STR-04 EPG-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 /072 W  
-----066200 151111Z /20

R 141330Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LOME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2495  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
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AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN

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USEEC FOR EC BRUSSELS, SSMTN FOR MTN GENEVA

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECIN EGEN XY US  
SUBJ: ECOWAS  
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REF: STATE 159681

1. RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO PARA 2 OF REFTEL:  
A. PRESIDENT EYADEMA OF TOGO CONSIDERS HIMSELF ONE OF  
THE CREATORS OF THE ECOWAS CONCEPT. TOGO IS FULLY  
COMMITTED TO MAKING ECOWAS SUCCEED. ADEQUATE TIME AND

RESOURCES WILL BE DEVOTED TO ECOWAS.

B. NO

C. ECOWAS WILL CONCENTRATE ON REGIONALLY-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE FIRST YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE IN ORDER TO MAKE THE PROPOSITION SELF-EVIDENT THAT CUSTOMS BARRIERS MUST COME DOWN. THERE IS LITTLE ANTICIPATION THAT PROBLEMS CONCERNING PAYMENTS OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON CURRENCY ARE LIKELY TO BE AMENABLE TO SOLUTION FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

D. IN MOST CASES LINKS DO NOT EXIST AND MUST BE CREATED BEFORE INTRA-ECOWAS TRADE CAN INCREASE.

E. COMPLEMENTARY. TOGO IS SEEKING TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ENTREPOT ROLE WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS. IT IS ALSO SUCCESSFULLY SEEKING A LARGER COMPLEMENTARY ROLE BY BECOMING THE SITE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CEMENT, FERTILIZER, ETC.

F. DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE DESIGNED TO INCREASE COMPLEMENTARY, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE ECOWAS CONTEXT.

G. YES.

H. IN 1976 37 PERCENT OF TOGO'S BUDGET WAS DERIVED FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES AND TRADE-RELATED TAXES. HOWEVER, THIS FIGURE IS OF LIMITED VALUE CONSIDERING THE DYNAMICS OF THE TOGOLESE BUDGET IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. INCOME FROM CUSTOMS REVENUE HAS INCREASED FROM 8.4 MILLION CFA IN 1973 TO 18.7 MILLION IN 1976 YET DECLINED FROM 62.5 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET IN 1973 TO A PROJECTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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33 PERCENT FOR 1977. THIS IS BECAUSE THE BUDGET HAS GROWN EVEN FASTER THAN CUSTOMS REVENUES PLUS THE FACT THAT IN 1975 PHOSPHATE PROFITS WERE ADDED TO THE BUDGET.

I. THE ECOWAS CONCEPT ENVISAGES A 15 YEAR PERIOD FOR THE FORMATION OF THE CUSTOMS UNION. IN THIS TIME-FRAME IT IS EMINENTLY POSSIBLE, IF SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTRA-ECOWAS TRADE DEVELOP, THAT THE FUND WILL PERFORM ITS ASSIGNED FUNCTION.

J. IT IS TOO SOON TO TELL.

K. YES

L. YES: ALONG WITH THE ENTENTE, BOAD, UNDP, THE ADB, AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

2. COMMENT: I AM NOT SURE THE QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 2 ARE LIKELY TO PROVIDE USEFUL ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEMS CITED IN PARA I, BUT NEVER MIND. THE CRUCIAL POINT IS THAT MANY LEADERS FOR THEIR OWN REASONS WANT ECOWAS TO SUCCEED AND ARE DEVOTING ENERGY AND THOUGHT AND MONEY TOWARDS THAT GOAL. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SEKOU TOURE IS TAKING A VERY CLOSE INTEREST IN ECOWAS AND IS LOBBYING STRONGLY TO THAT GUINEA CAN OBTAIN ONE OF THE TWO DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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